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SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

16 October 1947

TO : Office of the Attache
FROM : Investigation Section
SUBJECT : V-10871
REFERENCE : State Department Air Pouch #2720, 6 June 1947

Martin FARIANI

1. Martin FARIANI was summoned to the Embassy for an interview on 6 August 1947 in order to complete the preliminary report of 28 March 1947 and to obtain the detailed information requested in above reference communication.

2. Subject claimed he was not asked to return to the Embassy for further interrogation. There appears to have been a misunderstanding with the interviewer about this matter.

3. Subject declared he had obtained a Canadian visa and intended to leave in September regardless of his U.S. visa. At one point in the interrogation he stated he would attempt to have the paintings brought to him in Canada, and at another time he stated that he personally would drop the whole matter and have the French Government return the paintings to France.

(see following-)

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4. Mr. DULON, of the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, Quai d'Orsay is no longer in Paris. He has been replaced by Mr. Raïle SANFATI, Vice-Consul at the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères. Mr. Sanfati is attempting to gather further information on FABIANI and will forward it to us once it is ready. SANFATI requested that FABIANI not be granted a visa to the United States if this is possible (letter attached). There is little question in his mind that the Fabiani affair is a scandal of great proportions. An interview was also held with Mr. HENRAUX, President of the "Commission de Recuperation Artistique", 20 bis Avenue Rapp, Paris. Mr. HENRAUX desired to remain non-committal claiming it was not within his realm to offer information or judge Mr. FABIANI. However, he did not hesitate to repeat that FABIANI collaborated to the hilt with the Germans, a fact which, he believes, FABIANI himself would not dare deny. Mr. HENRAUX further stated that if he were in our position he would not, under any circumstances, permit Mr. FABIANI to enter the United States.

5. FABIANI repeated that the following is a complete list of the paintings which are totally and solely his property in the United States. He wished to make clear the following points before taking up the discussion about the paintings: "a-) All paintings left France before the German invasion of France; b-) The paintings were declared in the French Customs and Exchange Office; c-) They were insured for the Atlantic crossing by C.T. Bouring & Company, 52 Leadenhall Street, London, on 15 April 1940, for the sum of 1,425,000.00 francs; d-) He had requested that these paintings not be exhibited or sold in the United States." (These statements have been verified by examination of the signed, dated documents).

The following is a complete list of the paintings described above, giving approximate size without frame, mat or pedestal, approximate value in 1947, a brief description of the contents, date of purchase, from whom and place of purchase.

All the paintings were bought from the Ambroise Vollard Collection in Paris and were published either in the "Tableaux Pastels et Dessins de Pierre Auguste Renoir", published by Chen Ambroise Vollard, 28 rue de Grammont, Paris, 1918 edition, or in the book compiled by Lionelle Venturi entitled "Cezanne: Son Art, Son Oeuvre, 1,600 Illustrations II", published by Paul Rosenberg, 21 rue de la Boétie, Paris, 1936 edition.

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Photographs of the following paintings are attached:

1. Renoir
Size, 60 x 42cm. wide
Subject, Woman wearing hat covered with roses ("Chapeau Fleuri")
Purchased, 1936
Value, \$15,000.00
2. Renoir
Size, 55 x 40 cm wide
Subject, Still Life ("Grenades, Raisins et Figs")
Purchased, 1936
Value, \$5,000.00
3. Renoir
Size, 70 x 40 cm wide
Subject, Woman's bust, lower portion covered with fruit
("La Femme Aux Grenades")
Purchased, 1935
Value, \$5,000.00
4. Renoir
Size, 30 x 50 cm wide
Subject, Still Life ("Pommes, Peches et Poires")
Purchased, 1938
Value, \$3,000.00
5. Cezanne
Size, 15 x 25 cm wide
Subject, Nude woman near a pool of water ("La Baignade")
Purchased, 1936-1937
Value, \$5,000.00
6. Cezanne
Size, 20 x 15 cm wide
Subject, Still Life ("Les Pommes")
Purchased, 1936-1937
Value, \$5,000.00
7. Cezanne
Size, 20 x 25 cm wide
Subject, Swimmers and a lake ("Baigneuses Bleues")
Purchased, 1939
Value, \$3,000.00

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8. Cezanne
Size, 15 x 15 cm wide
Subject, Head of sleeping child ("Paul Endormi")
Purchased, 1936
Value, \$3, 000.00 or \$4,000.00
9. Renoir
Size, 30 x 15 cm wide
Subject, Portrait of lady with small dog ("Femme au Chien")
Purchased, date unknown
Value, \$5,000.00
10. Renoir
Size, 70 x 50 cm wide
Subject, Two women seated on banks of Seine ("Argenteuil")
Purchased, 1939
Value, from \$10,000.00 to \$15, 000.00
11. Renoir
Size, 60 x 40 cm wide
Subject, Forest ("La Clairiere")
Purchased, 1936
Value, \$10,000.00
12. Renoir
Size, 65 x 50 cm wide
Subject, Portrait of artist's maid and son ("Gabrielle et Coco")
Purchased, 1936
Value, from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00
13. Cezanne
Size, 60 x 80 cm wide
Subject, French Midi countryside ("Paysage en Largeur")
Purchased, 1939
Value, \$15,000.00

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6. FABIANI was asked to give detailed information on the paintings in the United States of which he is part owner or has part interest. He balked at this question, became irritated and stated that he was no longer interested in obtaining a visa for the U.S. He was invited to return to the Embassy later in the afternoon. When this subject was broached again FABIANI acted very indignant once again and refused to discuss the matter. He was persuaded it was in his own interest and he offered the following information. FABIANI has part interest, approximately one-third, of a set of paintings owned in the most part by, and held in the name of Ambroise Vollard. They are being kept at the Galerie Bignou, 32 East 57th Street, New York City of which George Keller is the manager. The paintings include:

Gouanne-	"Le Payvan"
Renoir -	"Ambroise Vollard en Toreador"
Degas -	"Courses"
Picasso-	"Hue Rose"
Picasso-	"Evocation" (or l'Enlèvement)
Gouanne-	"Paysage"
Renoir -	"Baigneuse Couchée"
Renoir -	"Corange Vert"

7. FABIANI promised to return to the Embassy early in September, but because of a delay he reported back on 23 September 1947. At this time he presented the final report of the Committee for Illicit Profits. This document is dated 18 October 1944 and states: "This decision is taken on 4 September 1947 with regard to the decision taken on 19 October 1945 calling for the confiscation of 34,101,600 francs and a fine of 136,000,000 francs. It is hereby decided that:

Article 1- The amount confiscated, 34,101,600 francs, is to be reduced to 7,316,000 francs.

Article 2- The fine of 136,000,000 francs is reduced to 3,658,000 francs.

Article 3- The total amount charged FABIANI is 10,974,000 francs.

Article 4- The total reduction, therefore, from the original sum is 159,127,000 francs.

Article 5- The amount due by Mr. FABIANI is to be paid as follows: 1,256,000 francs on 15 March 1946 at the latest and 9,718,000 francs on or before 30 September 1947.

Article 6- The present decision is applicable immediately.

(Signed) Conern

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8. Subject also presented the receipt (original attached) signed by the "Reserveur Percepteur" in which is stated that the entire sum due him, 10974,000 francs was paid on 23 September 1947.

9. Photostatic copies of all papers that may be of interest are attached for your information.

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